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Oil Fields of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coastal Plain. By N. M. FENNEMAN. (U. S. Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 282.) Pp. 146, 11 plates. Washington, D. C., 1906.

The oil of this region generally occurs beneath low mounds. At depths of 800 to 1,600 feet these mounds contain three substances that are not found in drill-holes away from the mounds, namely: (1) crystalline limestone, frequently dolomitic and usually porous or cavernous; the caverns are filled with oil and frequently they are lined with sulphur crystals; (2) gypsum, both the massive rock and as an admixture in sands and clays, occurring nearly always below the limestone; (3) rock salt and salt solutions impregnating sand, occurring below the gypsum. The oil is associated with the limestone and with the overlying unconsolidated sands. The position of the mounds is marked by rising ground water as indicated by the temperature and salinity of the water. It is thought that these rising waters have introduced and segregated the limestone, gypsum, and salt under the mounds. Possibly the pressure exerted during the growth and alteration of the bodies of limestone, gypsum, and salt has been sufficient to raise the mounds.

C. W. W.

The Constitution of the Interior of the Earth as Revealed by Earthquakes. By R. D. OLDHAM. (Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, Vol. LXII, 1906, pp. 456-73. London, 1906.)

The author agrees with most recent seismologists in believing that the core of the earth does not transmit tremors with the facility of the rest of the planet. He does not suggest whether this inability to transmit waves is due to a composition of iron, compressed gas, or other substance. The central core occupies about four-tenths of the diameter of the earth. "The interior of the earth after the outermost crust of heterogeneous rock is passed, consists of a uniform material, capable of transmitting wave-motion of two different types at different rates of propagation; this material undergoes no material change in physical character to a depth of six-tenths of the radius."

C. W. W.

The Geological Map of Illinois. By STUART WELLER. Illinois State Geological Survey, H. Foster Bain, Director. Bulletin No. 1. Urbana: University of Illinois, 1906.

This is a provisional geological map in twelve colors, scale 12 miles to the inch. It is accompanied by 25 pages of text descriptive of the formations and structure.

C. W. W.